

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Small Businesses Invited to Testify about Regulatory Fairness of State Agencies

(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) – The Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 1, seeking public comment on the state rules and regulations that impact small businesses. The hearing will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 500 of the Harry S. Truman Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City.

Small business owners who wish to comment on how state agency rules and regulations affect their operations may do so by oral or written testimony. Officials from the Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Administration Division of Purchasing will also be testifying on their approach to regulatory fairness for Missouri's small businesses.

Those small businesses wishing to provide oral testimony about any state agency must register no later than April 26 using the form on the board's Web site at www.sbrfb.ded.mo.gov, by sending an emails request to sbrfb@ded.mo.gov or by calling (866) 719-1401. Testimony will be limited to five minutes. The openings for oral testimony will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Walk-in testimony will be allowed if time permits.

Written testimony should be sent to the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board, Missouri Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102 or by email to SBRFB@ded.mo.gov no later than April 24.

The board was established by the Missouri General Assembly in 2004 and given additional powers and responsibilities in 2005 to ensure that small business owners have a voice in the development of rules and regulations by state agencies. Small businesses are defined as those companies with 100 or fewer full-time or part-time employees.

The board is required to submit an annual report to Gov. Matt Blunt and the Legislature that evaluates state agency performance and makes recommendations regarding regulatory fairness for Missouri's small businesses. The report will include comments from small business owners, state agency responses and a summary of public testimony brought before the board for consideration.

Media wishing to discuss the board, its mission or next month's meeting should contact Scott George, board chairman, at Mid-America Dental & Hearing Center in Mt. Vernon at (417) 466-7184 ext. 152.